

HONORING WILTON SIMPSON OF  
TRILBY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilton Simpson, a distinguished member of the business community in Pasco County, Florida. Mr. Simpson has recently been named the 2009 recipient of the Lincoln Heritage Award in honor of his humanitarian services to the community and Pasco County and for his commitment to the principles practiced and espoused by one of our greatest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

A native of Lakeland, Florida, Mr. Simpson moved to Dade City with his family in 1978. He is a 1984 graduate of Pasco High School in Dade City and 1997 graduate of Pasco-Hernando Community College. A star football player in high school, Mr. Simpson turned down college scholarship opportunities to go into business instead. Today he is married and the father of two children, one son and one daughter.

Beginning his career in construction and asbestos removal, Mr. Simpson chose to enter into the chicken industry about 20 years ago. Founding Simpson Farms in Trilby, FL in 1996, he grew the egg production facility over the years, eventually expanding operations to include 210 acres and more than 1.25 million egg producing chickens. In 2005, Mr. Simpson diversified his holding, with the founding of Simpson Environmental Services, a company that specializes in asbestos removal.

In addition to his business interests, Mr. Simpson has given back to his local community. He serves on the Pasco County Housing Authority, is the current president of the Pasco County Farm Bureau and the Pasco County Fair Association, current chairman of the Board for East Pasco Habitat for Humanity, treasurer and board member of the Pasco Economic Development Council, treasurer and board member of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce, past chairman and current director of the Boys' and Girls' Club, past chairman of Premier Community Health Care, current member of the Pasco-Hernando Community College Board of Trustees, and is a charter member and director of Florida Traditions Bank.

Mr. Simpson coaches his son's little league team, is the 2005 recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award from the Pasco Economic Development Council and the 2008 recipient of the Business Leader of the Year Award from the Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons and many more, Wilton Simpson is being recognized with the 2009 Lincoln Heritage Award. He has epitomized the principles practiced by one of our finest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, and by his actions has improved the lives and welfare of the entire Pasco County Community.

TRIBUTE TO PAT GILLILAND

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Pat Gilliland from her position as city clerk of Adel, Iowa.

For the past 25 years Pat has served the city of Adel as city clerk. During a city council meeting, Pat was honored for all her years of service. The Mayor also declared December as "Pat Gilliland Month" and gave her a key to the city.

The City of Adel and the surrounding community will certainly miss Pat's hard work and dedication to her job. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Pat Gilliland for her many years of service to Adel, and I wish her happiness in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WHATEVER IT TAKES TO REBUILD ACT OF 2008"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Whatever it Takes to Rebuild Act".

A disaster can leave the tax base of an affected community eroded, necessitating Federal assistance to pay for essential services. These essential services, including police, fire, and school personnel, are even more critical in the wake of a disaster. To aid communities, Congress created the Community Disaster Loan Program. While this program has worked with great success, there are two significant issues that need to be fixed. The first issue is that this assistance is delivered in the form of a loan and the second is that any loan is limited to \$5 million. Providing this aid as a loan can further delay the recovery of a local community and the \$5 million cap does not allow for adequate assistance for medium or large communities.

The "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act" would repeal the requirement that disaster affected communities repay the assistance they receive under the Community Disaster Loan Program. This legislation would permanently repeal the \$5 million cap on these loans, would make states eligible for this assistance, repeal the cap that limits loans to 25 percent of a municipalities operating expenses, and would provide this assistance as grants when the President waives the provisions for a catastrophic event. All of these provisions are aimed at giving the Federal Government the tools and flexibility we need to fully respond following a disaster.

This program was used most recently immediately following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. While it was able to provide significant benefits, repayment requirements have raised significant hurdles for many recipient communities. In the wake of a disaster, the government should give American communities the financial assistance they need to get back on their feet with no strings attached. That is why

I am reintroducing the "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act."

TRIBUTE TO KEN SCHMITT

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Ken Schmitt. Ken is a Farmers National Company Accredited Farm Manager from Carroll, Iowa.

Ken has been named Farmers National Company's 2008 Farm Manager of the year. This award is given annually to one of Farmer Nationals 70 professional farm managers for excellence in performing management duties. The applicants were judged by a panel of agribusiness professionals and presented at the Farmers National Company's annual meeting.

Ken has worked for Farmers National Company since 1986 and due to his hard work has received many awards over the years.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Ken Schmitt for this great honor. I wish him health and happiness for the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman SAM JOHNSON

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of McKinney, Texas

Address of Requesting Entity: 222 N. Tennessee, McKinney, Texas 75070.

Description of Request: \$300,000 in FY 2009 Department of Justice COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Interoperability funds to replace the City's Public Safety Radio System and to acquire interoperability capabilities.

The City of McKinney, Texas, was the fastest growing city with a population greater than 100,000 in the U.S. between 2000 and 2006, according to U.S. Census statistics released last year. With a population that has mushroomed from 38,700 to 121,000 in only ten years, resources for many important projects are strained. The current 800 MHz radio communications system, completed in 2001 when McKinney's population was half its current size, now has communications coverage deficiencies, particularly in the newer growth areas in southwestern McKinney. These "dead spots" are experienced by all City radio system users (Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, etc.) and could compromise officer safety, citizen safety, and the ability to respond adequately in emergency situations. Efforts to